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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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DATE: 25X1A

SUBJECT Road Construction in the Chelyabinsk-Kurgan-Omsk Sector

DIST. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

PAGES 1 May 1947

SUPPLEMENT

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EVALUATION OF SOURCE

EVALUATION OF CONTENT

1. In the spring of 1945, 800 German PWs were sent to Chelyabinsk (Urals) from a camp at Troitsk. From there they went on foot about 100 kms. east into almost deserted territory. They were divided into working groups of 100 men and were to construct a 14-meter wide straight road from west to east. The road was marked out, but there were no tools, materials, transportation, or boarding facilities. The technical leadership was in the hands of Russian civilian engineers.
2. In June 1945, the first implements came, about 50 shovels and hoes, and leveling and excavation work began. The road was given a very strong underlayer of granite stones. It took a long time to obtain these stones and they had to be crushed near the construction work. The road was to be surfaced later with crushed stone and tar.
3. According to one of the PWs who worked on the road, this was part of a new road east from Chelyabinsk through Kurgan to Omsk. It was to go from Chelyabinsk west through Zlatoust, Ufa, Kazan, and Gorki to Moscow. It would be, therefore, a thoroughfare from Moscow to Omsk. Many Romanians, Bulgarians, Hungarians, and Poles worked on the Chelyabinsk-Kurgan stretch.
4. Informant stated that in eighteen months his group had excavated and leveled about 10 kms. In this section, 4 kms. of roadbed was finished except for surfacing.
5. Informant was released from imprisonment because of sickness. When he left, about half of the 800 Germans had died from their sufferings. After the summer of 1946, more Germans were placed in other sections, but the work went slowly because of lack of organization; the winter also hindered the work.
6. The old Chelyabinsk-Kurgan road was about 400 meters north of the new road and was one of the usual poor Russian country roads. Commercial planes flew regularly between west and east over the area where informant's group worked.

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Next Review Date: 2008

Document No.
 NO CHANGE in Class.
 DECLASSIFIED
 Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C
 DDA Memo. 4 Apr 77
 Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763
 Date: 02/17/77 By: 022

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